Lease Develop-Operate (LDO), Joint venture management contract or wrap—^around addition etc.

Air Services between India and Saudi Arabia by Air India

4446. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights operate between India and Saudi Arabia Weekly by Air India and different centres in India and Saudi Arabia excluding Haj flights;

(b) the number of passengers travelled between India and Saudi Arabia by Air India flights during the last three years excluding Haj passengers;

(c) the percentage of the Saudi traffic to the total middle east operations; and

(d) whether Air India is making profit in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air India (AI) operates 18 flights per week between India and Saudi Arabia (excluding Haj flights).

(b) and (c) Details are as under:—

Year	No. of Passengers travelled between India and Saudi Arabia by AI flights (excluding haj passengers).	Percentage of Saudi Traffic to the total traffic carried by AI
1995-96	342292	38.0
1996-97	411846	39.0
1997-98	483957	42.2

(d) Yes, Sir. Saudi Arabia forms parts of India-Gulf Route which is a profitable route.

Commission Paid to Ticket Sales Agents of Air India

4447. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India gives commission to its ticket sales agents on their total sales; if so, the details thereof including the names of such agents, their locations and amounts of commission paid this year;

(b) whether the reservation system in Air India is programmes in such a way that fictitious PNRs^ookings are fed to show closed status of flights and later on against these bookings oblige their favoured ticket sales agents; and

(c) whether Air India<}ovemment propose to review the prevalent practice in this regard and start giving business to other TAs instead of restricting it to a selected few?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) In accordance with International Air Transport Association (lATA) regulations, Air India gives 9% agency Commission to the lATA approved agents on their ticket sales and 3% overriding commission on the flown revenue to General Sales Agents (GSA).

The total amount of agency commission paid during 1997-98 was as under—

(Rs. in crores)

9% lATA Agency Commission	339.51
3% overriding Commission to GSAs	34.27
TOTAL	373.78

(b) and (c) The Computerised Reservation System (CRS) of Air India is programmed to accepted bookings from all travel agents using global CRS, if the flight is open for sale. The airline has a system of checking the authenticity of the